ONE YEAR LATER...
HAVE THINGS NOT GONE EXACTLY AS I PLANNED?
POWER. WEALTH. REVENGE. HAVE I NOT GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING I SAID I WOULD?
PERHAPS IF I HAD FALLEN SHORT ON MY PROMISES, PERHAPS THEN I WOULD NOT BE AGGRIEVED THAT YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WILLING TO SHOW UP WHEN I CALL A MEETING.
WE LACK A DEMON, A GODDESS AND A WITCH...
I'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.

PERHAPS THEY'VE GROWN TIRED OF CERTAIN COMPANY, OSBORN.
A SENTIMENT I SHARE, VICTOR.
AND IN THAT SPIRIT I'VE DECIDED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES TO OUR SPECIAL LITTLE CLUB...
...A SMALL SHIFT IN THE POWER STRUCTURE.
HEY, WHEN DID DOOM START WEARING RED?
THIS?
IT WAS A GIFT...

"...FROM THE HOOD."

AS WAS THIS.
WE'RE DOING THIS NOW?
I WILL WAIT NO LONGER.
UNGRATEFUL...
DEAL WITH THIS.
WHAT?
THEY ARE GONE.
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE.
ALL THE HEAVENS IN BETWEEN US, AND NOW, SO MUCH LESS BETWEEN YOU AND I.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO LEARN THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOOD HELP.
AND BESIDES, I DO LOVE GETTING MY OWN HANDS DIRTY.

UGGHFFF!
NAMOR... NAMOR, I GAVE YOU BACK YOUR KINGDOM.
YES.
YES, YOU DID, NORMAN... I THANK YOU FOR THAT.
BUT MY ALLEGIANCE LIES WITH DOOM.
CHUUUUNKK!

YOU'RE WEARING THE DEMON'S CLOAK, SO I ASSUME YOU HANDLED THE HOOD...
YES.
AND WHAT OF THE WOMEN?
THEY ARE WHERE THEY BELONG.
"DOOM."
HMMM?
YOU'RE IGNORING ME, DOCTOR?

HOW I SURVIVED APOCALYPTIC FIRE
IT WAS TUESDAY. ANOTHER STUPID BLOODY BORING TUESDAY.
I WAS AWAKE AND WISHED TO PUNISH THE WORLD FOR IT; INSTEAD I STARTED THE DAILY SLOG THROUGH THAT MORNING'S TELEPATHY PERIOD.
I SAID SOMETHING DUMB AND BITCHY MASQUERADING AS CLEVER AND NAUGHTY AND MEAN.
MY FIRST REFUGE WHEN I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO SAY.
AND THAT'S WHEN THAT--
--IT'S OKAY, EMMA. YOU DIDN'T LIKE HER AND YOU CAN THINK IT--SHE'S DEAD NOW AND IT CAN'T HURT HER--
--THAT'S WHEN THAT HORRIBLE LITTLE GIRL WITH THE BAD BLACK CLOTHES AND THE LONG DUMB NAME THAT ALWAYS SMELLED OF SOUP SAID...
MISS FROST...
I WAS TEACHING A CLASS ON THE ISLAND OF GENOSHA ON THE DAY THAT SOME NIGHTMARE OF A WOMAN UNLEASHED REMOTE-CONTROLLED GENOCIDE.
SIXTEEN MILLION MUTANTS DIED.
SEVEN OF THEM WERE MY STUDENTS.

IT WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME I'D LOST CHILDREN I'D PLEDGED TO TEACH.
THIS WAS MASSACHUSETTS, THEN.
MY SISTER ADRIENNE.
LONG-SIMMERING FAMILY BUSINESS BLEW UP IN MY FACE.
SHE INFILTRATED AND ATTACKED THE ACADEMY WHERE I WAS TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION TO RISE UP AND STAND STRONG.
SHE KILLED A BOY NAMED SYNCH IN THE EXPLOSIONS.
SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM, THOUGH.
SHE JUST WANTED TO TAKE SOMETHING OF MINE SHE COULD NEVER HAVE.
WELL.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT, DARLING.

WHICH BRINGS US TO: JEAN GREY.
THE MOST GIFTED PSYCHIC I'D EVER ENCOUNTERED--
--I'D NEVER SAY IT TO THE COW'S FACE BUT IT WAS TRUE--
--AND ONE DAY I UPSET HER SO MUCH THAT JEAN KILLED ME. THE PHOENIX KILLED ME.
THE PHOENIX WAS JEAN; JEAN WASN'T THE PHOENIX. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
AND I HAD MADE THE PHOENIX MAD. SO I WAS...
CLEANSED.
IT SHATTERED MY MIND AND LEFT ME GIBBERING AND INCONTINENT FOR... GOD. MONTHS.
I REBUILT MYSELF ONE NEURON AT A TIME.
I SURVIVED ALL THE TRAGEDY AND FIRE THAT FOLLOWED, BECAUSE I'D ALREADY BEEN INCINERATED BY THE BEST.
AND HOW DID I SURVIVE THE BEST?

Hell's Kitchen, NYC.
ONE DAY OUR SUN WILL CONSUME THE EARTH.
AS A BOY I SUFFERED FROM AN UNHEALTHY OBSESSION WITH THIS CONCEPT.
IF EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ERASED-- WHAT IN THIS WORLD REALLY MATTERS?
IT MAKES LIFE FEEL... INSIGNIFICANT.
BUT HERE. TODAY. AS WE MOURN THE LOSS OF ONE OF OUR OWN. WE SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EVEN ONE LIFE LOST.
IT SERVES TO PULL BACK THE VEIL WE USE TO KEEP OUR INEVITABLE MORTALITY HIDDEN. OUT OF MIND.
WITH THIS CURTAIN DRAWN BACK. WE SEE OUR OWN LIVES WITH A FLEETING CLARITY.
WE ARE REMINDED THAT LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL...
...AND THIS IS OUR ONE SHOT AT GETTING IT RIGHT.
PARKER. WHAT KIND OF CONCRETE CUTTING HAPPENS AT 3 A.M.?
OPEN UP, SWEETHEART. HERE COMES THE CHOO-CHOO.

THEY'RE PLANNING THE JOBS AT NIGHT TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONGESTION, SARA.
HOW IS IT WITH ALL OF THESE LATE NIGHT CONSTRUCTION JOBS I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WITH ONE SINGLE TOOL?
OKAY.
I'LL MAKE THE MONEY THAT KEEPS THIS ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD BUT I DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE AS YOU QUESTION HOW I MAKE IT.
IS THIS WHERE I GET THE SPEECH ABOUT HOW YOU DO IT ALL FOR US, PARKER?
IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR US, HOW ABOUT SPENDING MORE THAN A FEW HOURS A WEEK AT HOME?
DOES THAT NOT SEEM LIKE THE SORT OF THING A LOVING AND DEVOTED FATHER MIGHT DO?
Gaaba
SEE YA.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE STOCK OF WHAT WE HAVE.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT OFTEN TAKES LOSING SOMEONE CLOSE TO US TO DO SO.
AS I STAND HERE LOOKING AT OUR COALITION -- I TRULY APPRECIATE ALL THAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER.
THIS UNION MUST NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.
THERE IS ONE AMONG US WHO WOULD ABUSE OUR TRUST TO FULFILL PERSONAL AGENDAS.
THE SAME TRAITOR WHO MURDERED OUR BROTHER.
WHO WOULD DARE BETRAY YOU -- THE HOOD -- UNQUESTIONED KINGPIN OF CRIME?
DON'T WORRY, MADAME MASQUE...
"...HE OR SHE WILL BE DISCOVERED... AND DEALT WITH."

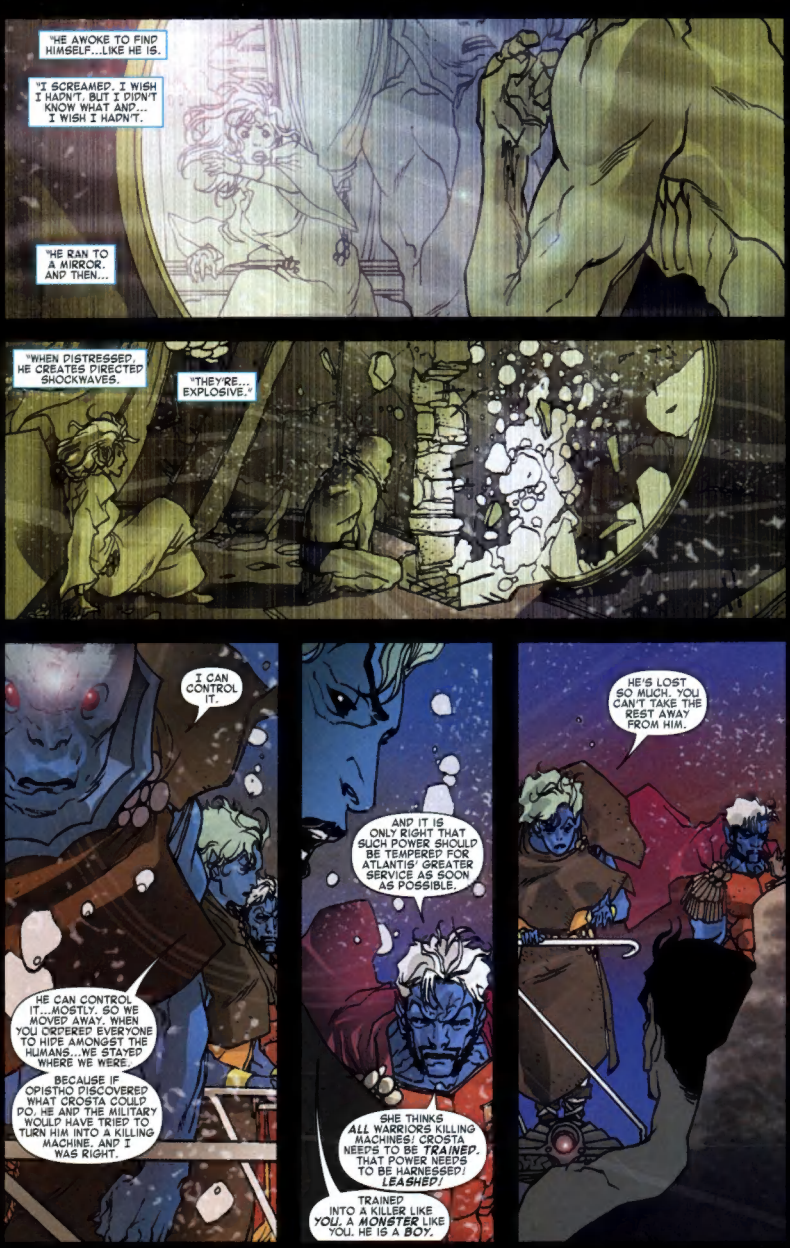
"NOTHING COMES BEFORE THE FAMILY."
GET ME BACK TO THE BAR, SAM.
GET OUT OF THE CAR, YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!
KLAM KLAM
WHAT IS THIS, PARKER? WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THE MONEY FOR THIS?!
DAMN IT, SARA. WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I WANT THE TRUTH!
NO MORE LIES.. NO MORE OF THIS DAMN SHADOW YOU KEEP ME IN.
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME! FOR ONCE YOU NEED TO TELL ME THE TRUTH!!
HERE'S THE TRUTH.
YOU ASK ME ABOUT MY WORK, EVER AGAIN...

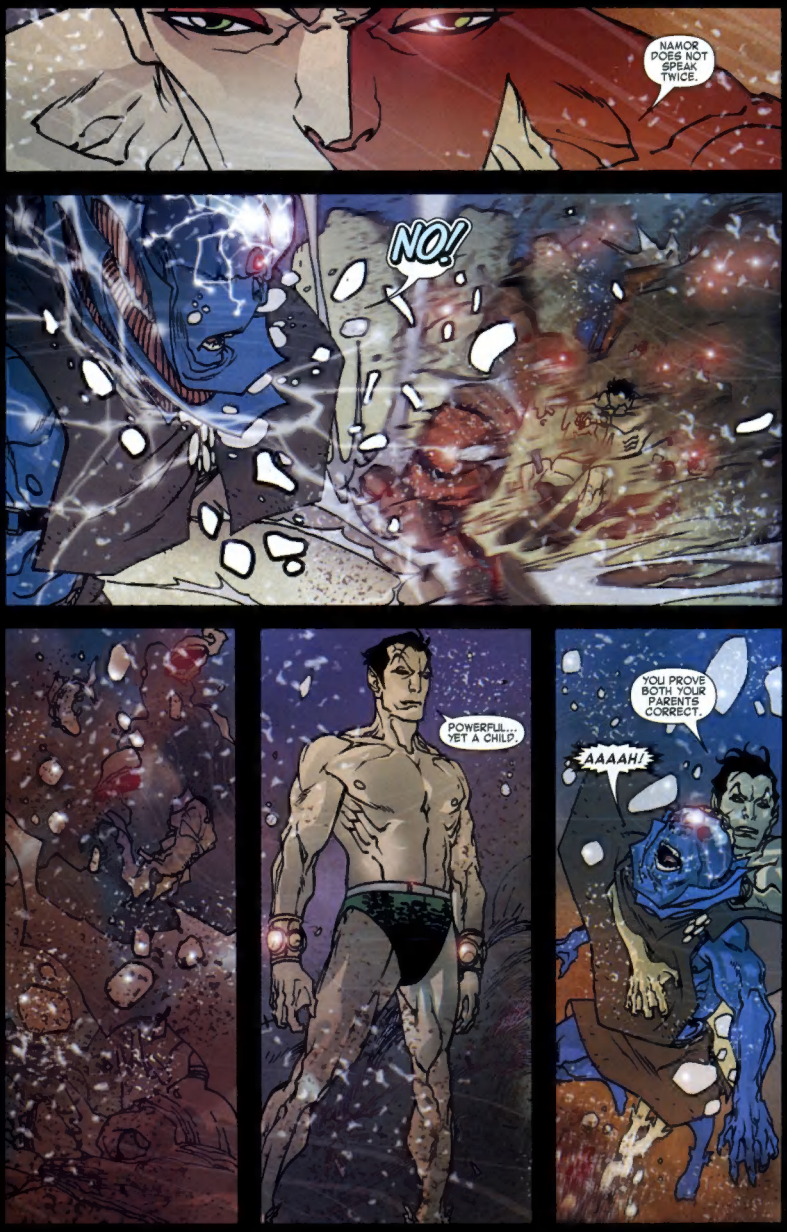
The Judgment of Namor
THIS COURT NOW... RECLINES.
I WARN YOU: EVEN THIS STRAINS MY PATIENCE.
EXPLAIN WHY THIS LEGAL KNOT REQUIRES YOUR MONARCH TO UNTANGLE IT.
IT'S BECAUS--
NO. YOU CAN WAIT. HIM FIRST.

MY LORD: IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF CUSTODY BETWEEN PROCTIDAE [redacted] I.
I'M ASHAMED THIS HAS DISTURBED YOU.
"OUR MATRIMONY DISSOLVED [redacted] HELLISH ACRIMONY SOME SIX YEARS PAST.
"IN THE COURT'S WISDOM, SHE WAS AWARDED CUSTODY OF [redacted] SON, CROSTA."
THIS I REGRETFULLY ACCEPTED. WHILE I TRIED TO EXPLAIN HER IMMORAL NATURE, THE COURT THOUGHT AN ATLANTEAN MILITARY CAMP WOULD NOT SUIT SUCH A YOUNG CHILD.
KILLERS.
HAD I KNOWN THE TRUE EXTENT OF [redacted] IRRESPONSIBILITY, I WOULD HAVE FOUGHT ALL THE HARDER!
MELODRAMATIC RHETORIC [redacted] ROYAL PREROGATIVE.
HURRY ALONG.

"I RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT AFTER ATLANTIS' DESTRUCTION, RATHER THAN JOIN SLEEPER CELLS IN HUMAN SOCIETY, SHE CONTINUED TO LIVE BENEATH THE SEAS."
IN DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE TO YOUR WISHES.
[redacted] IS NO LONGER A CHILD. SHE HAS PROVED HERSELF AN UNSUITABLE MOTHER.
I DEMAND CUSTODY.
YES--THAT SEEMS LOGICAL ENOUGH.
BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS...IT WAS YOU, WOMAN WHO REQUESTED ROYAL FIAT.
DO YOU THINK YOUR KING FOND OF REBELLION?
PERHAPS YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD WIN MY FAVOR BY SPITTING IN MY FACE? TWEAKING THE REGAL EARLOBE? MOCKING MY CHOICE IN VESTMENTS?
I HAD NO CHOICE, MY LORD.
THIS IS MY SON.

EVEN THOSE APES WOULD HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT ME.
HMM. YOUR POINT IS PLAIN.
THEN YOU KNOW THAT MY MOTH--
YOUR WORDS ARE NOT REQUIRED.
YOUR SON'S NATURE EXPLAINS YOUR DISOBEDIENCE. BUT DOES NOT EXCUSE EITHER IT OR YOUR SECRECY.
WHY NOT-- SAY-- LIVE IN LATVERIA WITH THE MILITARY?
MY SON'S APPEARANCE IS... ONLY PART OF HIS CHANGE.


"HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF...LIKE HE IS.
"I SCREAMED. I WISH I HADN'T. BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT AND... I WISH I HADN'T.
"HE RAN TO A MIRROR. AND THEN...
"WHEN DISTRESSED, HE CREATES DIRECTED SHOCKWAVES.
"THEY'RE... EXPLOSIVE."
I CAN CONTROL IT.
HE CAN CONTROL IT...MOSTLY. SO WE MOVED AWAY. WHEN YOU ORDERED EVERYONE TO HIDE AMONGST THE HUMANS...WE STAYED WHERE WE WERE.
BECAUSE IF OPISTHO DISCOVERED WHAT CROSTA COULD DO, HE AND THE MILITARY WOULD HAVE TRIED TO TURN HIM INTO A KILLING MACHINE. AND I WAS RIGHT.
AND IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT SUCH POWER SHOULD BE TEMPERED FOR ATLANTIS' GREATER SERVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SHE THINKS ALL WARRIORS KILLING MACHINES! CROSTA NEEDS TO BE TRAINED. THAT POWER NEEDS TO BE HARNESSED! LEASHED!
TRAINED INTO A KILLER LIKE YOU. A MONSTER LIKE YOU. HE IS A BOY.
HE'S LOST SO MUCH. YOU CAN'T TAKE THE REST AWAY FROM HIM.


NAMOR DOES NOT SPEAK TWICE.
NO!
POWERFUL... YET A CHILD.
YOU PROVE BOTH YOUR PARENTS CORRECT.
AAAAH!

THOUGH WHILE I UNDERSTAND RAGE, THEY HAVE FAILED TO TEACH YOU PROPER RESPECT.
YOU ARE GOING TO A SCHOOL IN SAN FRANCISCO.
THERE, YOU WILL BE TAUGHT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MUTANT AND HOW TO LIVE WITH YOUR GIFTS. YOU WILL GROW AND BECOME THE MAN YOU SHOULD BE.
BUT I WANT MY...
CEASE. YOUR WANTS MATTER NOT.
AS MY SUBJECT, OBEDIENCE IS YOUR DUTY TO ME.
AS YOUR KING, MY DUTY TO YOU IS TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST.
TO GIVE YOU WHAT'S BEST, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
AND IN THAT MATTER, THIS COURT NEVER RESTS.
END

STRICTLY SPEAKING, I'M NOT A MAN.
NOR AM I REFERRING TO THAT AUGUST BODY, THE CABAL.
VICTOR, I'M SUGGESTING A NEW PARTNERSHIP, BETWEEN YOU AND---
KLUNK
HOLD.
HEAR THAT NOISE? IT MEANS THIS ROOM HAS NOW BEEN SEALED.
THE WALLS AND DOORS ARE NINE INCHES OF HARDENED STEEL.
VERY SECURE, I'M SURE.
BY THE WAY, THE LOCAL CUISINE IS DELICIOUS.
WOOSH
THE DEVILED FISH REALLY IS OUTSTANDING.